Setting up of projects in Orissa by multi-national corporations

*239. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multi-national corporations and big business houses flocking to set-up projects in Orissa would not benefit the local people;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they are a threat to their livelihood besides causing environmental damage; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to protect the interests of the local people and environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) During the period August 1991 to December 2001, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals involving a total amount of Rs. 8230 crores have been accorded approval in respect of proposed projects in several sectors in the State of Orissa, which amounts to 3.0% of the total FDI approved for the whole country during this period.

Foreign Direct Investment supplements domestic investment efforts and is sought by developing countries, including India, in view of its perceived advantages. These include, apart from net additional inflow of scarce resources, infusion of state-of-the-art technologies, globally best management practices and enhanced international competitiveness of the domestic industry. Foreign Direct Investment is subject to all the domestic laws and investment procedures as applicable to local industry, including conformance with environmental regulations.

Share of Karnataka in petrol/diesel cess.

*240. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has requested to release Rs. 57.5 crores as its share in petrol and diesel cess collection; and

(b) if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard?